

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP COMMENTS
SACRAMENTO, CA

<i>Date:</i>	July 12, 2005 6:00-8:00 pm	<i>Location:</i>	Sacramento First Floor Hearing Room, Bonderson Building 901 P Street
<i>Meeting Purpose and Goals:</i>	To hear and record public comment on the Public Review Draft of the California Water Plan Update 2005		
<i>All meeting materials, including the PowerPoint presentation, are available at the California Water Plan website at: http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/materials/index.cfm</i>			

Presenters:

Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager, Statewide Water Planning, CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Austin McInerny, Facilitator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CA State University, Sacramento
Betsy Reifsnider, Advisory Committee member, Friends of the River

Introduction: Format and Purpose

Austin McInerny, meeting facilitator, introduced the presenters and DWR staff and welcomed everyone to the CA Water Plan Update 2005 Public Input Workshop in July. The purpose of the meeting was for the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) to receive public input and to share ideas for the Public Review Draft of the CA Water Plan. This workshop was one of two evening meetings held to provide additional opportunities for public comment for people who were unable attend the afternoon sessions in June.

The workshop consisted of 3 presentations by Kamyar Guivetchi (DWR), each followed by opportunities for audience to ask questions. Advisory Committee member Betsy Reifsnider from Friends of the River spoke on behalf of the CA Water Plan Update 2005 Advisory Committee. Near the end of the meeting, time was reserved to allow individuals to orally present prepared statements

Part 1 – Agenda Items A and B

A) Background & Overview / B) Comments from the Advisory Committee

This *Water Plan Update* is different than previous updates. It was prepared using a new process. There are many new features in the Water Plan. It will be continually updated as new information becomes available, and it presents a strategic plan and framework for action developed with substantial stakeholder input. Kamyar Guivetchi spoke on the content and strategic planning process used in the Water Plan. Advisory Committee members Betsy Reifsnider explained the *Advisory Committee View*, a 4-page handout prepared by the Advisory Committee that summarizes the areas of agreement and points of disagreement among the 65-member Advisory Committee over the last four and a half years, and uncertainties remaining in the Water Plan.

Comments / Question and Answer Session:

Q: What is the State role for making sure that Southern California does not compete for the same water supply as the Sacramento Valley?

A: There are recommendations in the Water Plan. Proposition 50 Chapter 8 bond monies are providing incentives for integrated resource planning.

Q: How does the Water Plan address cooperation between different regions?

A: In the Framework for Action diagram, the second Initiative is called “Improve Statewide Management Systems.” It is about the coordination needed among the regions for statewide management.

Part 2 – Agenda Items C and D

C) California Water Today & Water Balance / D) Regional Reports

It is important for a strategic plan to have a clear description of current conditions and situations. Chapter 3 of Volume 1: Strategic Plan is called “California Water Today.” As the largest chapter in Volume 1 (about 120 pages), it is intended to provide education and reference information. It gives general findings from both statewide and regional perspectives as well as the perspectives of different water use sectors (agriculture, urban, and environment). Volume 3 of the Water Plan has more detailed information on each of the 10 hydrologic regions (plus additional reports for Statewide, Mountain Counties, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta), covering conditions, challenges, accomplishments, and future opportunities of the Region presented, as well as quantified water balances for supply and use. Kamyar Guivetchi presented the California Water today and statewide water balances.

Comments / Question and Answer Session:

Q: Concerned that home water ion systems in the foothills could create a saline water quality problem due to the discharge of the ion exchange salts, such as sodium and potassium into septic tanks. There should be limits on the use of these ions exchange systems in septic tanks.

A: One of the 25 resource management strategies in Volume 2 is called Drinking Water Treatment and Distribution. Another strategy is called is Recharge Area Protection. The Water Plan also addresses water quality issues in Chapter 3 of Volume 1 (California Water Today).

Q: Is there an inventory total for how much groundwater there is in the state?

A: No. DWR does not have much groundwater data because it is locally controlled. We do not know how much groundwater we have, but we do want to know about opportunities for groundwater banking and reducing groundwater overdraft.

Q: What is the definition of regions?

A: The California Water Plan does not state what a region is. The suggested highest level of regional planning would be the hydrologic regions. There are also 56 planning areas that were aggregated to make the 10 hydrologic regions.

Q: How were boundaries of planning areas and hydrologic regions set?

A: DWR uses hydrologic boundaries and watersheds.

Part 3 – Agenda Items E and F

E) Preparing for the Future (Scenarios) / F) Diversifying Responses (Strategies)

This *Water Plan Update 2005* recognizes that many things may alter water use between now and 2030. For that reason, the *Update* contains a description of several possible future scenarios. Uncertainty about future course or events creates a need for multiple options to address opportunities and challenges. Further, the Plan recognizes that one size does not fit all. Each Region will have specific requirements or needs that may not apply across the entire state. Implementing multiple options (diverse management strategies) allows managers to adapt to a variety of circumstances. Volume 2: Resource Management Strategies has narrative descriptions of 25 different strategies available to water managers to help them reduce water demand, improve operational efficiency and transfers, increase water supply, improve water quality, and practice resource stewardship.

Comments / Question and Answer Session:

Q: Is there a probability of outcomes for the future scenarios?

A: No. For precipitation, we can look at probability based upon the last 100 years of rainfall data in California.

Q: There is urban water use efficiency and agricultural water use efficiency. Is there environmental water use efficiency?

A: There is an article called “Managed Environmental Water Use Efficiency” in the Volume 4 Reference Guide. This concept was debated by the Advisory Committee, and there was no clear agreement by the Advisory Committee. A team of UC Berkeley graduate students wrote this report as part of a research project.

Part 5 – Formal Public Comments ~~(in order of presentation)~~:

Members of the public were welcome to present statements in the formal style of a traditional public hearing. No members of the public registered to speak.

Part 6 – Closing

Kamyar thanked the audience for participating in the public comment workshop and for their comments. He reminded everyone that the public review period will last through July 22, to allow for 60 days from the release of the printed Public Review Draft document.

Attendance:

Public:

Arturo Delgado, CA Department of Fish and Game
Vicky Fry, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Lowell Jarvis, Placer County Water Authority
Will Price, San Joaquin County
Betsy Reifsnider, Friends of the River
Eunice Sumi, Public
Ken Sumi, Public

Staff:

Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR
Austin McInerny, CCP
David Sumi, CCP